United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

tional Register of Historic Places Hegistration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for Individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the Information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

<u>1. Nam</u>	e of Property					
historic	name John Lowe Fam	n / Valley Ho	use / Glen Farm			
		,	GOOT CHOIT CHIT			•
other n	ames/site number					
2. Loca	ition					
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city or t	own Reisterstown					<u>x</u> vicinity
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Name of Property	The contract of the contract o	Baltimore, Maryland	
No. 1995	and the second of the second o	County and State	2501
5. Classification			asul
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Pro	
(Check as many boxes as apply)	(Check only one box)	(Do not include previously listed resources i	n the count)
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Name of related multiple prope Enter 'N/A' if property is not part of a m	erty listing autiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources pro in the National Register	eviously listed
3. Function or Use			
Historic Functions		Current Functions	
Enter categories from Instructions)	and the second s	(Enter categories from instructions)	
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John Lowe Farm

John Lowe Farm	_Baltimore County
Name of Property	County and State BA-250/
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
"x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	(Enter categories from instructions)
fc _ational Register lieting.)	
	Architecture
A Property is associated with events that have	
made a significant contribution to the broad	Agriculture
patterns of our history.	
patterns of our history.	
B Property is associated with the lives of persons	
significant in our past.	
X C Property embodies the distinctive	
characteristics of a type, period, or method of	
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construction or represents the work of a	
master, or possesses high artistic values, or	the state of the s
represents a significant and distinguishable	
entity whose components lack individual	Period of Significance
distinction.	ca. 1752 - 1940
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	N/A
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B removed from its original location.	
C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
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D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
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F a commemorative property.	Architect/Bullder
r a commemorative property.	N/A
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G less than 50 years of age or achieved	
significance within the past 50 years.	
Narrative Statement of Significance	
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets	,
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	
Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on o	ne or more continuation sheets \
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
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preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	State Historic Preservation Office
has been requested	Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	University
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recorded by Historic American Engineering	Name of repository:
Record #	

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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John Lowe Farm Baltimore County

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Narrative Description

John Lowe Farm, 327 Church Road (BA-2501) - (Contributing Resource Count 2: includes the house and a large frame bank barn; a family cemetery may also remain on the property but has not yet been located). The Lowe house was constructed in three sections, spanning a two-hundred year period. This includes a square, one-and-one-half story, two bay, one room plan, rubble stone structure with bank cellar and kitchen. The next section is a two story, side gable, brick addition with interior end chimneys, front porch and enclosed two story porch addition on the rear. The third section of the house is a modern two story, brick side addition with central chimney.

The first section was apparently built during the third quarter of the eighteenth century (ca. 1769), the second approximately one hundred years later (ca. 1863), and the last section was added within another century (ca. 1969). (These dates are based on interviews with tenants and field inspection).

The oldest section has one-and-one half stories with attic and a two bay, one room plan with side gable. The structure is laid in rubble stone and has brick infill on the gable end, where two small windows flank the double-pile end chimney. There is a bank cellar with kitchen, which is no longer in use. Inside, the first floor room is presently used as kitchen. This room features built-in paneled cupboards and a small enclosed staircase leading up to the attic. The common rafter roof system employs cut nails and wooden pegs in mortise and tenon joints, and there are tongue-ingroove floor boards.

The nineteenth-century brick addition has two stories, with three bays, side gable, and single pile hall-and-parlor plan. There is an open, shed roof front porch with turned posts, and two interior end chimneys. However, inside, only one fireplace remains; others have been sealed up. This part of the house has a center single-pane door flanked by 8/8 windows on each side top and bottom floors. An enclosed staircase leads to the cellar and to the upper story. On the ground floor, the principal room features a plain chair rail, base and crown molding, and the main entry door has a four-lite transom. The smaller room has been re-panelled with cedar wood. At the second floor landing is a built-in closet with board-and-batten door with original hardware, including strap hinges. In the second floor bedroom, base molding and a very thin crown molding are present. On the rear elevation is a two-story screened-in porch, apparently added after this part of the house was built.

The recent twentieth century addition on the north end has a front gable and is laid in common bond brick and has a exterior central chimney. It is set perpendicular to the main block of the house and has two-and-a-half stories with basement.

The Lowe house is shaded by large mature trees, including sycamore and spruce. Lilac and other small bushes are clustered to the north. Fruit and other ornamental trees, including dogwood, walnut, cherry, and pear, line the west side of the driveway along the field, and reach as far south as the woodland. These were apparently planted in the mid-nineteenth century.

The house is approached by a dirt driveway from Church Road, and the farmhouse sits on a relatively high knoll which drops rather steeply to the east. To the west is a cultivated field, which rises very slightly to a nearly flat, et-like field, and then ascends gently to the west. Because the descent cannot be seen from the house or the weway, this field appears to extend almost indefinitely to the west. To the south, the field goes down to a woodland. The area to the southeast has a low, gentle slope consisting of cultivated fields.

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National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

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John Lowe Farm **Baltimore County**

Narrative Description cont.

A large bank barn is situated to the south of the house. This Sweitzer-type barn has a full, cantilevered forebay which faces east. The ground floor is constructed of undressed grey stone laid with mortar and covered with plaster. The upper portion consists of vertical wood planks on the exterior. The roof and interior framing system could not be inspected during several field visits. The barn is currently used for storage and is in very good condition. It probably was constructed when the second addition was added to the house in the 1860s, and was repaired in later years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The John Lowe or Herod Choate Farm, presently identified as 327 Church Road, was originally a portion of the lands acquired by Thomas Harrison in the mid-eighteenth century, when he hired surveyors to mark a number of properties totaling 3240 acres on July 25, 1751. The land grants included much of the land west of Reisterstown Road, in which was a property which Harrison called Soldier's Delight. The entire complex of estates was patented to Harrison on March 25, 1752 (Penniman n.d:17).

Although Harrison owned much of the area, he apparently did little to improve the region. He died during the third quarter of the eighteenth century, and the land was divided into smaller parcels. One of the tracts, called Soldier's Delight and containing 120 acres, was sold by Daniel Bowly and Richard Ridgley, executors to the Harrison estate, to John Lowe, who apparently had a log farmhouse built on the property. A mortgage was held on the property by William Cook, which was released on March 26, 1799 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WG 59, folio 44). According to a letter left by John Lowe's sister-in-law dated July 25, 1778, **

...Nicholas's brother, John, also dwells in a log house upon a more westerly section of the estate with his two children, David and Florah. The portion on which John resides is part of a large tract known hereabouts as 'Soldier's Delight' and was purchased by my father-in-law from a Mr. Benjamin Harrison

This farm was a portion of the massive Lowe estate. It was passed by will during the early decades of the 19th century to John Lowe's son, David Lowe. David Lowe also purchased land from John Lowe and Austin Choate in 1812. He lived on the farm during the first half of the 19th century, and in his will dated December 18, 1839, he devised the farm to Alfred Lowe and Herod Choate following the death of his wife. The Lowe widow apparently did not pass away until c. 1853. Alfred Lowe, well established on the adjacent tract (Nicholas Lowe's farm, his father, which he acquired in 1829) to the east, sold his half-interest in the farm of 194 acres to Herod Choate on October 3, 1853 to Herod and Priscilla Choate (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber HMF 7, folio 78). They occupied the farm for the proceeding twenty-five years. The 1870 Federal Population Census recorded that Herod Choate, a 73-year-old farmer, was living on the property with his wife, two children, and several tenants.

On October 15, 1874, they sold it to their daughter Eleanor Choate in return for "the natural love and affection" she had shown them (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber JB 90, folio 232). Eleanor G. Choate sold the farm to Elizabeth Sloffer on November 7, 1878 for \$2500, the property then containing 32 acres with improvements (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber JB 109, folio 421). They owned and occupied the property for a number of years, selling it on December 12, 1891 to Alfred Lowe for \$2950 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber LMB 190, folio

). It appears that at this point, Alfred Lowe took possession of the Choate Farm and gave his son, Perry Lowe, the narm to the east. He is shown as occupying the farm in the 1898 map of Baltimore County, and died there during late

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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John Lowe Farm Baltimore County

Narrative Statement of Significance cont.

1899 or early 1900. In his will, written on May 17, 1899 and proven on February 14, 1900, he left the following to Jacob Worrell, his great-nephew:

...ltem 3. I give and devise to Jacob Worrell that part of my real estate containing 101 acres and 37 square perches of land, designated as Lots 2 and 4 on the plat of division of my lands...ltem 14. I also give and devise to Jacob Worrell one third of the crops upon the place at the time of my death, be the same matured or growing. Also to Jacob Worrell, I give and devise one-third of the rest and residue of my property, consisting of horses, cattle, hogs, farming implements and furniture, also one-third of the money st the time of my death...(Baltimore County Recorder of Wills, Liber HJH 11, folio 448).

Jacob Worrell apparently sold portions of the property to others during his ownership, but retained the portion containing the farmhouse and surrounding fields. He was left with 32 acres, which he sold to George Uhler on cember 22, 1910 (WPC 372/272). On the same day, George and Margaret Uhler sold the property back to Jacob L. and Alpha D. Worrell for \$5.00 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WPC 372, folio 273). During his ownership of the property, and additional nineteen acres had been added to the property. On April 10, 1950, Jacob L. Worrell, widower, sold the 53 acre tract to Edward J. and Marie H. Meyers (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber TBS 1827, folio 450).

During the past forty years the property has been owned and occupied by various members of the Smith family. On March 26, 1952, Edward J. and Marie H. Meyers sold the property to J. Temple and Edna Smith for the sum of \$5.00 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber GLB 2089, folio 336). The Smith's, in turn, sold it on November 16, 1960 to Mary A. Garvin, for the sum of \$5.00 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WJR 3783, folio 88). On November 16, 1960, Mary A. Garvin sold the 53 acre farm property to J. Temple Smith for the sum of \$5.00 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WJR 3783, folio 93). It was passed on August 2, 1962 by J. Temple Smith and his wife M. Edna Smith to the Steuart, Ensor and Schuster, Inc. Company for \$5.00 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WJR 4174, folio 312), which thereafter became Steuart, Ensor and Company, Inc. This company resold the 53 acre tract to J. Temple Smith on May 18, 1972 for \$5.00 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WJR 5773, folio 67). On June 30, 1980, J. Temple Smith sold the property to Martin J. Smith and James T. Smith Jr., his sons, for the sum of \$190,000 (Baltimore County Recorder of Deeds, Liber WJR 6179, folio 580). Martin and James Smith are the present owners of the Choate Farm property, as recorded within the Baltimore County Tax Assessment, map 57, parcel 138. It has been known by the names of Valley Home, Glen Farm and Four Chimneys.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the earliest section was built during the late eighteenth century, the second section during the mid-inneteenth century and the final section during the mid-twentieth century. The integrity of this Lowe House has been somewhat clouded by the construction of the rear two-story porch, the removal of some of the fireplaces, and the addition of a late-twentieth century wing. Nevertheless, the basic historic form and character of the late eighteenth and nineteenth century additions remains intact. The late eighteenth century section is in extremely good condition, and retains significant interior features such as the built-in cupboards and closet. It is also a example of a single-room plan house with a banked cellar kitchen. The nineteenth century section has also retained its original form and some interior molding details.

The barn is a good example of a nineteenth century Sweitzer-type bank barn, a property type that is becoming rare in Baltimore County. The house shows a continuous sequence of building over a 200-year period. Moreover, the

OMB Approval No. 1024-001

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National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

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John Lowe Farm **Baltimore County**

Narrative Statement of Significance cont.

surrounding landscape at the Lowe house maintains its natural and historic integrity and greatly enhances the property's significance. With its history of adaptation and use over an approximately two hundred year period, the property is potentially significant both because it retains one of few remaining late eighteenth century houses within the county, and because it illustrates the evolution of architectural styles and building practices from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries in Baltimore County. It is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register under criteria C because it appears to embody the "distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction".

Bibliography

Chapman Publishing Company, 1897. Biographical and Historical Encyclopedia, NY. Forbes, Marie. Speaking of our Past: A Narrative History of Owings Mills, Maryland 1640-1988. Heritage Books, 1988. Howard and Brown. Early Patents and Roads, 1976, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY CF

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1. Na	me (indicate p	referred name)		
historic	John Lowe Farm/	Valley.Home/Glen Far	n	
and/or commo				***
	ation			
street & numb	er 327 Church Road	*		not for publication
city, town Re	eisterstown	_X_ vicinity of	congressional district	
state Mary		county	Baltimore	
3. Cla	ssification			:
Category district building(s structure site object	Ownership public) _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted no	Present Useagricuiturecommerciaieducationaientertainmentgovernmentindustriaimilitary	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owi	ner of Prope	rty (give names an	d mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name _{Ma}	rtin J. Smith			
street & numbe	Church Road		telephone no	. •
city, town R	eister&bown	state a	and zip code Maryl	
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7. Description

Survey No. BA-2501

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moved date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 2 (includes the house and a large fra bank barn; a family cemetery may also remain on the property but I yet been located.)

Square, one-and-one-half story, two bay, one room plan, rubb stone with brick infill in the gable end, side gable, detached dwel on bank cellar with cellar kitchen; two story, three bay, single pi hall and parlor plan, side gable, brick addition with interior end chimneys, enclosed stairs leading to the cellar and to the upper splain chair rail, shed-roofed front porch, enclosed two story porch addition on the rear elevation; modern two story, side gable, brid addition with central chimney, set perpendicular to the main block the house.

The house was constructed in three sections. The first section built during the late eighteenth century, the second during the mid nineteenth century and the third during the mid-twentieth century.

Although the formal integrity of this structure has been some obscured by the construction of the two story porch and large, twen century additions, the basic historic character of the late eighter and nineteenth century sections remains intact. The late eighter century section is in extremely good condition, with a cellar and a which have been subjected to few alterations. The primary floor is currently used as a modern kitchen.

Period	Areas of Significance—CI — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — X architecture — art — commerce — communications	meck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Situated on a parcel of land purchased by Nicholas Lowe Sr. from Benjamin Harrison in 1758, the John Lowe Farm was occupied by Nicholas Lowe's brother John in 1758. Nicholas Lowe had acquired a large tract of land north of Owings Mills and constructed an estate along the Reistertown Turnpike, called Food A-Plenty, by 1747. A letter written in 1778 states:

Nicholas' brother, John, also dwells in a log house upon a more westerly section of the estate with his children, David and Florah. The portion on which John resides is part of a large tract known hereabouts as "Soldiers Delight" and was purchased by my father-in-law from a Mr. Benjamin Harrison (Forbes 1988:32).

The map, which depicts the locations of John Lowe's log house, of "Food A-Plenty" and of the "Soldiers Delight" tract, also shows "Lowe's Cemetery" near Old Church Lane.

Further research is necessary to fully reconstruct the over two hundred year history of ownership of this property, which was subdivided during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Alfred Lowe, Sr., the grandson of an English immigrant who became a wealthy farmer in District 4, was born at the Lowe farm in 1805. He is said to have lived his life on this property located within the "Soldiers Delight" (Chapman Publishing Co. 1897: 431-432). Herod Choate purchased a tract of land within Harrison's Meadow, containing the Lowe family cemetery, from Caleb Stansbury in 1839 (Baltimore County Deeds, Liber 287, Folio 131). This parcel, which encompasses the eastern portion of the original tract purchased by Nicholas Lowe, is recorded as the residence of Herod Choate on the 1850 and 1877 Atlas' of Baltimore County, and as under the ownership of Alfred Lowe on the 1898 county atlas.

Further research is also necessary to determine the original owner and builder, as well as the subsequent occupants, of the house which is currently located at 327 Church Road. Field investigation indicates that the earliest section was built during the late eighteenth century, the second section during the mid-nineteenth century and the final section during the mid-twentieth century.

With its history of adaptation and use over an approximately two hundred year period, the property is significant both because it retains one of few remaining late eighteenth century houses within the county, and because it illustrates the evolution of architectural styles and building practices from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries in Baltimore County. It is eligible for listing on the National Register under criteria C because it embodies the "distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction".

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

Chapman Publishing Company, 1897. Biographical and Historical Encyclopedia, NY. Forbes, Marie. Speaking of our Past: A Narrative History of Owings Mills, Mary 1640-1988. Heritage Books, 1988.

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DHCP/DHCL

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House

100 COMMUNITY PLACE CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023 i -514-7600

21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

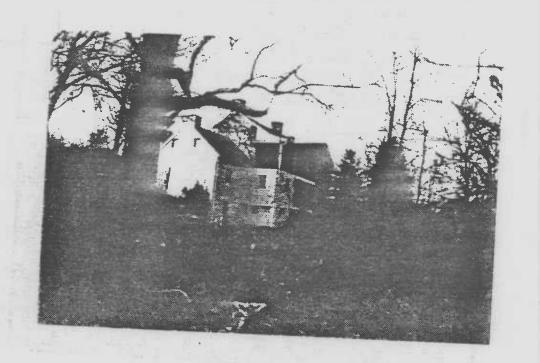
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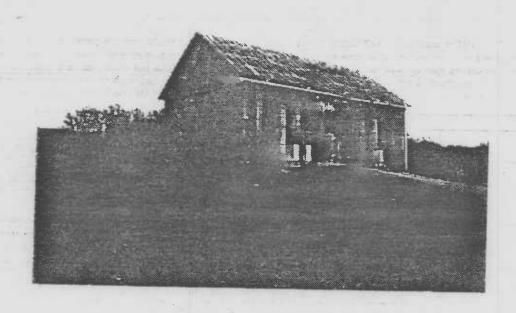
John Lowe Farm - Stairway and Closet in Second Addition



John Lowe Farm / Valley Home/Glen Farm - 327 Church Road - Front



John Lowe Farm/Valley Home/Glen Farm - 327 Church Road - Rear



John Lowe Farm /Valley Home/Glen Farm - 327 Church Road - Barn

